GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3306
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2007
SHORTAGE OF RAKES
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway is concerned about growing demand of rakes during 11th and 12th Five Year Plans due to huge proposed development in power, steel and cement sectors as reported in Business Line dated August 2, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways for restructuring and augmenting production in public sector wagon manufacturing units?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) : Yes, Sir. The projected overall freight traffic by the end of 11th Plan period is about 1100 million tones. Higher plan outlay is envisaged to meet this demand.

(b): The Business Line dated 2.8.07 has reported that with number of Wagon Investment Scheme (WIS) customers going up and the committed allotments for the Central Board of Traffic (CBT) customers, South Eastern Railway (SER) would face serious challenge for supply of wagons to iron ore customers. The report has stated that the present level of 15 rakes under WIS is likely to go up by another 40 rakes or so and the rise in the number of rakes to be made available under WIS will affect the number of rakes to CBT and other customers. There is, however, no specific mention in the report about demand of rakes in 11th and 12th Plan periods or for Power and Cement sectors.

(c): Restructuring and technical upgradation for augmentation of production capacity is undertaken by the Public Sector wagon manufacturing units under the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. Railways are providing necessary support to these units by way of procuring bogies and couplers for them on cost basis.